

- Ploceus velatus* Vitelline Masked Weaver: Lake Baringo May.
Ploceus xanthops Holub's Golden Weaver: Nairobi area pr-Jun (4).
Quelea cardinalis Cardinal Quelea: NW of Magadi May (hundreds of nests)
Quelea quelea Red-billed Quelea: ENE of Ologesailie very large colony of
 c. 100 000 occupied nests, eggs probably Jun-Jly.
Euplectes afer Yellow-crowned Bishop: Nairobi N.P. May.
Euplectes ardens Red-collared Widow Bird: Karen Jan (3), Jun (5), Dec (2).
Euplectes capensis Yellow Bishop: near Njoro Oct.
Euplectes nigroventris Zanzibar Red Bishop: Kenya coast Jun, Jly (3).

REFERENCES

- BROWN, L.H. & BRITTON, P.L. in press. The breeding seasons of East African birds. *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society & National Museum*.
 CUNNINGHAM-van SOMEREN, G.R. & RICHARDS, D.K. 1977. A note on the flora and fauna of two seasonal swamps in the Rift Valley. *EANHS Bulletin* 1977: 96-104.

BIRD RINGING 1977

G.C. Backhurst

East African ringing reports have appeared more or less regularly in the Society's *Journal* and will continue to be published there. What follows is a brief outline of ringing activity from July to December 1977, that is the part of the year not covered by the last report (Backhurst 1977a).

Ringing continued in a healthy state although, as always, the number of ringers was lamentably small. Just under 500 birds were ringed in Tanzania by members of the Cambridge Ornithological Expedition to East Africa 1977 (see Stuart & Hutton 1977); these were the first birds to be ringed in that country for a number of years. In Uganda, ringing continued on a small scale at Entebbe. An innovation was the start of ringing (with 'Nairobi' rings) in the southern Sudan by two workers based at Torit; their programme is mainly distributional mapping but ringing is an important part, with special emphasis on Palaearctic migrants.

As usual, the bulk of ringing was done in Kenya. Several overseas research groups used ringing in their studies (see Ornithological Studies below) as did some post-graduate students of Nairobi University. Locally based ringers continued their work on birds in the Kakamega Forest, Nandi Hills, Nairobi area, Magadi area, Sokoke Forest and, of course, at Ngulia. In addition, the netting of waders on the Kenya coast progressed satisfactorily now that efficient catching techniques have been established.

Few recoveries were reported apart from the two Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* and two Swallows *Hirundo rustica* to the U.S.S.R. (Backhurst 1977b).

The next East African Bird Ringing Report will be published in the Society's *Journal* in 1979.

REFERENCES

- BACKHURST, G.C. 1977a. East African Bird Ringing Report 1974-77. *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society and National Museum* 163: 1-10.
 ——— 1977b. Ringing News. *EANHS Bulletin* 1977: 110-112.

STUART, S.N. & HUTTON, J.M. [Eds.] 1977. *The avifauna of the East Usambara Mountains Tanzania*. Cambridge, cyclostyled.

EAST AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES IN 1977

The following studies on birds, being undertaken in 1977, were made known to the Ornithological Sub-committee; this section was compiled by D.A. Turner. In each case the name of the study is given first, then the name(s) and base of the worker(s) followed by a brief outline of the work. The studies are listed in no particular order.

The Behaviour and ecology of nesting Ostriches in Tsavo National Park. Dr Brian Bertram, Cambridge. No details available.

The status, seasonality and distribution of Palaearctic migrants in southern and eastern Kenya. Dr D.J. Pearson, Nairobi. The work continued satisfactorily relying on observations and netting, sometimes with the help of other people. Distributional mapping is being done and some results have already been published.

The Ngulia Ringing Scheme. G.C. Backhurst, Nairobi, Dr D.J. Pearson, Nairobi and P.L. & H.A. Britton, Mombasa. This continued satisfactorily with the help of other ringers. Results have been published regularly.

Seasonality of birds in the Kakamega Forest. Dr A.W. Diamond, University of Nairobi. The study continues using ringing/retrapping and observation.

Biology of honeyguides. Dr A.W. Diamond, as above. Particular emphasis on feeding preferences, metabolism of wax digestion and development of guiding behaviour.

Feeding behaviour of Mackinnon's Shrike and Blue-headed Bee-eater at Kakamega Forest. C. Amuyunzu, University of Nairobi supervised by Dr A.W. Diamond.

Feeding ecology of birds in agricultural crops at Kabete. M.K. Warui, University of Nairobi supervised by Dr A.W. Diamond.

Avifaunas of different forest types in Ngong Forest. A. Agoi, University of Nairobi supervised by Dr A.W. Diamond.

Birds of semi-arid areas. Prof D.E. Pomeroy, Kenyatta University College, Nairobi. Composition of the bird faunas of selected sites with respect to vegetation and changing land use.

Wetlands and Wildfowl Working Group. C.E. Norris (Chairman), Nairobi. Census and mapping studies of the wetlands themselves and associated birds.

Breeding behaviour of two *Vanellus* species. Dr J. Walters, Chicago. Comparison between *V. crassirostris* and *V. armatus* (with some observation on *V. coronatus*) in Amboseli.

Barbets and woodpeckers. Dr L.L. Short, New York and Jennifer F.M. Horne, Nairobi. Studies of these two families with emphasis on behaviour, vocalizations and geographic variation. Many of the data incorporated in a definitive work on woodpeckers of the world (in press).